

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

[View this email in your browser](#)



VHC SUMMER 2020 NEWSLETTER

Our year got off to a great start with our Youth Day at the Virginia State General Assembly in Richmond



Clockwise from lower left: Sec. Of Agriculture and Forestry, Bettina Ring; Victoria Kauffman, IEA, Caroline Ralls, VQHYA; Ellen Harris, ODRPC; Samantha Wysong, 4-H; AnnRae Sisson, ASHAV; Dr. Jewell Bronaugh, Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services; Sophie Brooks, TRAV; Victoria Klappers, FFA; Sarah Harris, ODRPC.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

On Thursday, February 13, 2020, the Virginia Horse Council held its third annual Youth Recognition Day at the Virginia State Capitol. Nine of Virginia's Youth Equine organizations selected representatives to attend this By Invitation Only event. The representatives were:

Sophie Brooks, Therapeutic Riding Association of Virginia
Ellen Harris, Old Dominion Region Pony Club
Victoria Kaufman, IEA
Samantha Wysong, 4-H
Annie Jones, Interscholastic Equestrian Association
Caroline Ralls, Virginia Quarter Horse Youth Association
AnnRae Sisson, American Saddlebred Horse Association of Virginia
Sarah Harris, ODRPC
Victoria Klappers, FFA

The representatives and their escorts met with legislators at their offices and shared information on the equine community's concerns.

They were introduced on the floor of both houses of the General Assembly as Virginia's equine industry's future leaders. They also met two teams from the Richmond Mounted Police unit, were given a tour of the Capitol by Sharon Hanger, wife of Augusta County Senator Emmett Hanger; and had lunch with Bettina Ring, Virginia's Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry, and Dr. Jewel Bronaugh, Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Agriculture.

The members of the Horse Council's Youth Recognition Day Committee would like to extend our thanks to Virginia's Youth Equine Organizations for selecting such an outstanding group of representatives and to the legislators, tour guides, mounted police, Commissioner Bronaugh, and Secretary Ring for making our day spectacular.

This was the Virginia Horse Council's third annual Youth Recognition Day. Support for the first event was strong enough to prompt the Council to hold the event again this year.

The representatives left the event with the knowledge that they are an integral part of Virginia's historic equine community, and that they are a welcome and critical part of their future.

COVID and Virginia's Equine Industry

The Virginia Agribusiness Council and The Virginia Horse Council hosted a Zoom webinar for equine event organizers on Thursday, June 4. The goal was to provide information to the event organizers to

Horse Center Security will police the grounds during events to ensure compliance. In addition to using the Commonwealth of Virginia's mandates, the Va Horse Center is also using USEF's guidelines.

Subscribe	Past Issues	Translate ▼
<p>assist in planning events that are COVID mandate compliant and navigable for participants.</p> <p>Kyle Shreve, executive director for the Agribusiness Council, offered information on requirements for Phases 2 and 3 of re-opening and practical application of the requirements. He provided links to sites with useful information for event organizers on planning COVID mandate compliant events.</p> <p>http://www.va-agribusiness.org/coronavirus</p> <p>http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/about-emergency-information.shtml</p> <p>VCE COVID-19 resources</p> <p>John Nicholson, executive director of the Virginia Horse Center, provided examples of policies the Horse Center has instituted for upcoming events: mask requirements for those not mounted, temperature taking for all event attendees upon arrival, the use of non-removeable armbands for attendees who have been screened, separation of horses in the stable area by barn and separation of barns by an empty stall or two.</p>		<p>https://www.usef.org/media/covid19-toolkit</p> <p>John also offered the Horse Center as a resource for event organizers to assist in making their events COVID compliant.</p> <p>Jennifer Oliver, equine insurance specialist with Central Virginia Insurance Agency, offered insight on the insurance industry's position on COVID compliant events. Like auto insurance, COVID insurance varies by state and by phase of the state's re-opening. Critical to COVID compliance is the use of COVID-19 waivers of liability in addition to the waivers the event has used in the past. Without the use of those waivers, the event's coverage may be in question.</p> <p>For more information on the COVID meeting, please feel free to contact the Virginial Horse Council at:</p> <p>888 HORSEVA (888 467-7382)</p> <p>or</p> <p>info@virginiahorsecouncil.org.</p>

The VHC has received a number of inquiries about the status of equine businesses during the current COVID-19 crisis. As of June 16, the Governor has updated requirements for equine public events. Please click on the link below for the printable and downloadable Virginia Phase Two guidelines for horse and other livestock shows that was just released by Governor Northam.

[CLICK HERE FOR THE PHASE TWO FOR HORSE AND OTHER LIVESTOCK](#)

[SHOWS INFORMATION](#)

If you have further questions please contact your local authorities for guidance. For those equine businesses suffering economic losses we suggest

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

that you contact your accountants and bankers. There are resources available through SBA to see businesses through these turbulent times.

As the situation evolves and if and when we have additional information we will share it with you.

We recognize that this will be a time of financial hardship that may result in the inability of some horse owners to provide food for their horses. If you find yourself in this situation please contact the VHC office. We will make every effort to see if we can put you in touch with sources that can provide you with relief.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the [VHC office](#).

From the President:

I have never been more serious when I say I hope this missive finds you in good health and in good spirits. The last several months have proven some of the most difficult in American history. The equine industry, like all other industries, has endured much and will continue to do so.

I hope that all of the members of the our community have been able to see your horses if you board, continue your lessons if you are a student, enjoy the time you have with your horses if you keep your own horses, and carry on with your business if you have an equine related business. Many of our events have had to be cancelled, including the Horse Council's annual meeting and educational seminar. We've begun to use technology for virtual horse shows and group meetings. Online ordering has helped us purchase items that we previously purchased from our local feed and tack shops. Increased use of text messaging and video calls to keep in touch with our equine health care providers and each other.

The board members of the Horse Council ask that you connect with us and keep in touch with us. Our contact information can be found on our website, virginiahorsecouncil.org under the Contact Us tab. We would like to know how you are faring during these difficult times and how we can support each other.

Wishing us all good luck and good times with our horses, in whatever fashion.

Dedi Spradlin,
President

Region 8

The past several months have been rather

Riders took to Carvin's Cove, Greenfield, Day Creek, and other open trails since the

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

stressful for many people in our region. For the horse world, it has been a little different. Those who have horse farms have continued to work on the usual activities that come with spring: Fertilizing pastures, worrying about who should be on lush grass and who should be taken off the spring grass, cleaning tack rooms and tack, checking fence lines for needed repairs, and cleaning the barn in general. Plus preparation for the beginning of the exercise program for horses that have been off for the winter. Those who have had their horses at home continued riding as usual when they could.

It was sad to see that many boarding barns had to close their doors to their boarders until a time came where, in some cases, the owners could come one at a time. It was also hard to see many of the lesson programs having to be temporarily stopped. We felt for those instructors who lost income as well as trainers who could not train horses.

Many horse shows, clinics and other programs were cancelled. Let's hope that many of these can be rescheduled when things open back up. Some of us reverted to virtual horse shows as a way to get back in to showing our horses. This has been a boon for those who don't normally show. There was no need for show clothes and other horse show hassles, just a clean horse and neatly dressed rider.

Horse clubs such as the Botetourt County Horseman's Association had to cancel all meetings until further notice. 4H also cancelled all meetings for the 4H groups and the Cloverbuds around the state.

Some of us continued to trail ride in small

state parks were also closed.

Being able to be around our horses has kept many of us sane during this stressful time.

Region 2

Spring equestrian competitions were cancelled or postponed until later in the year. This includes the Virginia Gold Cup at Great Meadow and the Upperville Colt & Horse Show, the oldest horse show in the U.S. Lesson and boarding barns have been closed to the public. Many formerly quiet areas used for trail riding have experienced unprecedented numbers of hikers and families outdoors, causing some public parks to be closed temporarily.

In Fauquier County, RideFauquier cancelled its major membership drive/fundraiser in March. Volunteers spent many hours working outside opening trails and working on the facility, and the non-profit was able to open an outdoor arena and trail system in May in order to give many local equestrians a place to school and trail ride.

Some organizations, such as the Commonwealth Dressage and Combined Training Association, have events scheduled for June. A plan was sent to the Governor's Office and to the Office of the Secretary of Agriculture which oversees horse racing in the state to hold the Gold Cup race without spectators on June 27. The reason for this is to try to put some purse money back into our horse industry that has continued to keep horses in training and people employed in the hope that some racing would be allowed this

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

groups. My group decided we would hit the local trails at Greenfield on a fairly regular basis however we each took our own trailers so we could maintain social distancing. Other trail groups did continue with a few scheduled rides.

spring.

For more information please use this link: <https://www.ridefauquier.com>

Update on the VA-MD Regional College of Veterinary Medicine Equine Operations

On May 4th and 6th 2020, respectively, using phased approaches and in consideration of reduced staffing and medical supplies, the **Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center (Leesburg, VA)** and the **H. Peters Large Animal Clinic (Blacksburg, VA)** started scheduling routine appointments and procedures again (beginning with patients that were on their waiting list). Both facilities have maintained their patient drop off policies, and restrictions to Hospital access. The VA-MD Regional of Veterinary Medicine's faculty and staff thank everyone for their patience during this difficult time.



Pictured Left to Right: (Glenmore member) Mary Lee McDavid, Laura Martlock, Courtney Pugh, Dedi Spradlin and Joint Hunt Master Joe Manning.

Virginia Horse Council President, Dedi Spradlin, along with Board member and regional Director, Laura Martlock and good friend Courtney Pugh attended the Glenmore Hunt's Murder Mystery Ride in Augusta County. A beautiful day for riding complemented the hard work of the Glenmore Hunt who produced wonderfully organized, fun and exciting event. Ultimately, after a double round of tie breakers, the Virginia Horse Council Team won the event and received prizes in excesses of \$400!

Add a taste of Virginia-grown flavor to homemade ice cream To beat the heat of a Virginia

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

summer, there are few treats more satisfying than ice cream. To celebrate National Dairy Month in June, why not try your hand at making homemade ice cream using local milk? Throughout the year, Virginia dairy farmers are producing plentiful amounts of milk ready to be turned into this summertime treat. Other Virginia farmers produce a variety of fresh fruit and nuts to top homemade ice cream. In June, berry farms are stocked with strawberries, raspberries, blackberries and blueberries. To allow pick-your-own activities to continue during the COVID-19 pandemic, those farms have adopted new safety regulations and social distancing measures to ensure customers remain safe. If salty toppings are more your speed, there's nothing like the famous peanuts produced in southeastern Virginia, or locally grown favorites like black walnuts and pecans. With little more needed than milk, cream, a mixing bowl and fixings to top things off, it's easy to master the art of homemade ice cream.

No-Churn Vanilla Buttermilk Ice Cream

1 cup heavy whipping cream 14-ounce can sweetened condensed milk

½ cup buttermilk

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

In a large mixing bowl, combine whipping cream and condensed milk, and beat with an electric mixer on high speed until soft peaks form. Add buttermilk, and mix on low speed until combined. Gently fold in vanilla extract. Pour mixture into a metal loaf pan, and cover tightly with plastic wrap. Freeze for at least 6 hours or overnight.

Note: Ingredients such as strawberries and cookies can be added to this recipe by stirring in with the vanilla extract.

Source: The Dairy Alliance No-Churn Chocolate Peanut Butter Ice Cream

1 cup heavy whipping cream 14-ounce can sweetened condensed milk

½ cup buttermilk

¼ cup cocoa powder

½ cup peanut butter

In a large mixing bowl, combine whipping cream and condensed milk, and beat with an electric mixer on high speed until soft peaks form. Add buttermilk, and mix on low speed until combined. Gradually mix in cocoa powder. Pour mixture into a metal loaf pan, cover

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

tightly with plastic wrap and place in freezer for 1 hour. Warm peanut butter for 30 seconds in a microwave. Remove the plastic wrap, and stir in the peanut butter making sure to leave visible chunks. Cover tightly, and place in the freezer for at least 6 hours or overnight.



Copyright © 2020 **Virginia Horse Council**, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

